

What is claimed is:

1. An input device, comprising:

an array of keys for inputting character values, data, or commands when selected, the array of keys further comprising at least one cluster of two or more thumb keys positioned so as to be operable by a thumb of a user, and wherein the two or more thumb keys are oriented in substantially orthogonal and adjacent planes.
2. The input device of claim 1, wherein the two or more thumb keys comprise a first thumb key, a second thumb key, and a third thumb key.
3. The input device of claim 2, wherein a user selects the first thumb key by pushing the thumb in a forward direction, from a neutral, resting position.
4. The input device of claim 3, wherein the first thumb key comprises a SHIFT key.
5. The input device of claim 2, wherein a user selects the second thumb key by pushing the second thumb in a sideways direction, from a neutral, resting position.
6. The input device of claim 5, wherein the second thumb key comprises a CTRL key.
7. The input device of claim 2, wherein a user selects the third thumb key by pushing the third thumb key in downward direction, from a neutral, resting position.

8. The input device of claim 7, wherein the third thumb key comprises an ALT key.
9. The keypad of claim 2, wherein the first thumb key, second thumb key, and third thumb key may be selected by a user either individually or in combination.
10. A keyboard, for use with a computing device, comprising:
an array of keys for inputting character values, data, or commands when selected, the array of keys further comprising a first thumb key, a second thumb key, and a third thumb key, each of which are positioned in substantially orthogonal and adjacent planes to one another so as to be operable by a thumb of a user to enable the user to select the first thumb key, second thumb key, and third thumb key either individually or in combination.
11. A keyboard, for use with a computing device, comprising:
an array of keys for inputting character values, data, or commands when selected, the array of keys further comprising at least one cluster of three keys positioned in substantially orthogonal and adjacent planes so as to be operable either individually or in combination by at least one digit of a user's hand, the at least one cluster of three keys further comprising:
a first key that may be selected by a user when the at least one digit of the user's hand is moved forward from a neutral, resting position;
a second key that may be selected by a user when the at least one digit of the user's hand is moved sideways from a neutral, resting position; and
a third key that may be selected by a user when the at least one digit of the user's hand is moved downward from a neutral, resting position.